

of service or money payment and left
 Sergius still
 a weak but independent prince, ^x
 Robert of Capua took the field in the
 early
 months of 1132, with 3000 knights and
 40,000
 foot. Farther south a quarrel
 between Roger
 and his brother-in-law, Rainulf of
 Avellino, lit
 the blaze of a great baronial rising and
 gave to the
 rebels a leader far greater than the
 Prince of Capua,
 Richard, Rainulf's brother, being in
 possession of
 Avellino and Mercogliano, declared
 publicly that
 he held them of no lord. Roger's envoy,
 sent to
 call him to account, was blinded and
 mutilated,
 Thereupon, the King's troops attacked
 Avellino
 and drove Richard out of it, At the
 name time,
 Rainulf came into conflict with the King,
 whose
 conduct seems less than just. Matilda,
 wife of
 Rainulf, apparently loved her brother
 better than
 her husband; she came to the King
 representing
 that her husband had refused to hand
 over to her
 her dowry of land in the Caudine valley.
 Never
 would she return to the marital couch
 unless
 Rainulf did her justice, The latter
 then sent to
 the King at Montefusco complaining of
 his wife's
 flight, and asking that she might be
 restored to him
 along with Avellino and Mercogliano,

Roger's
answer was that his sister's conduct
was no affair
of his, let Rainulf seek Ms court at
Palermo for
justice, Meanwhile, he despatched
Matilda and
her son Robert to Sicily where they
remained
as hostages. Rainulf was wounded
both in his

¹ Schlpa, *Arch*ilw» Nap*, 1887, p. 446.